

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ for opening carbon nanotubes, characterized in that it comprises ~~two oxidation stages, the first comprising a first~~ oxidation stage of said nanotubes in a liquid phase in a concentrated acid, the and a second oxidation stage of said nanotubes in gaseous phase.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~Method~~ according to claim 1, characterized in that wherein the carbon nanotubes are multiwall carbon nanotubes.
3. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to claim 2, characterized in that wherein the concentrated acid is nitric acid, preferably used in excess.
4. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to claim 3, one of claims ~~2 or 3,~~ characterized in that wherein said first oxidation comprises contacting said nanotubes and nitric acid in the following proportions: 1 g of carbon nanotubes in 0.5 litres to 2 litres of concentrated nitric acid at 60-75% by weight is used, in particular, 1 litre of nitric acid at a concentration of the order of 68-70% by weight.
5. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to ~~any one of claims 2 to 4,~~ characterized by a claim 2 wherein said first oxidation stage further comprises heating at reflux, under stirring.

6. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to claim 1, wherein any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that said second oxidation stage is performed in the presence of in gaseous phase is an oxidation of said nanotubes with carbon dioxide at low temperature.

7. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to claim 6, characterized by the treatment of carbon nanotubes with said wherein said second oxidation stage is performed in the presence of carbon dioxide at 500 to 600°C, for 1 to 2 hours, in particular from 500 to 550°C, for 1 hour to 1 hour 40 minutes.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~Method according to any one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that it comprises, between said first oxidation stage in liquid phase and said second oxidation stage in gaseous phase, an intermediate stage of filtration and washing of said open nanotubes, in particular with distilled water.~~

Claim 9. (Cancelled)

10. (new) Opened carbon nanotubes produced by the method of claim 1.

11. (new) The method of claim 3 wherein said acid is combined with said nanotubes in an excess amount.

12. (new) The method of claim 4 wherein said nitric acid is combined in amount of 1 litre at a concentration on the order of 68-70% by weight.

13. (new) The method of claim 7 wherein said second oxidation stage is performed in the presence of carbon dioxide at 500 to 550 °C, for 1 hour to 1 hour 40 minutes.

14. (new) The method of claim 10 wherein said nanotubes comprise a central channel which is filled with at least one conductive species.